

App. No. 10/005927
Office Action Dated February 6, 2004
Amd. Dated August 6, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 and 9 are hereby amended. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation " wherein the microparticles are colorant and antimonial dope stannic oxide (ATO) or indium tin oxide (ITO)". The amendment is supported at page 10, lines 1-4 of the specification. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-9 are pending.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 8. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. (US 6,086,790). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Sato et al. (US 5,270,072). Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Kojima et al. (US 5,660,876). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi and Kojima et al. as applied to claim 7, and further in view of Koike et al. (US 4,734,615). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

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Claim 1 is directed to a method of treating a surface of a face panel used for an image display device, comprising formation of at least one layer of coating film on a panel by spraying a coating material comprising microparticles. The coating material comprises ethylene glycol, propylene glycol ether, water, an alcohol having 1-3 carbon atoms and colorant and antimonial doped stannic oxide (ATO) or indium tin oxide (ITO) microparticles. The combination of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol ether, water and an alcohol having 1-3 carbon atoms with a colorant and ATO or ITO results in a desirable coating. As seen in Table 1 at page 8 of the present specification, the coating formed when ethylene glycol was not included in the mixture was not desirable.

Hayashi does not disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1. Hayashi teaches a transparent conductive film low of reflectance and resistance, having a double-layer structure comprising a lower layer containing a fine metal powder and a silica-based upper layer. Hayashi discloses the use of a wide variety of possible carrier materials for applying the coatings. While the individual carrier components of claim 1 are encompassed within the generic scope of the various materials disclosed as potentially useful by Hayashi, nothing in Hayashi directs one of ordinary skill to the combination of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol ether and alcohol as required by claim 1. Nor is there anything in Hayashi to suggest that this combination would be advantageous in spray coating a composition that contains ATO or ITO microparticles.

Although Hayashi may mention that oxide particles may be included in the coating, the primary focus of Hayashi is providing the fine metal materials for the coating. Likewise, while

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Hayashi may disclose that the composition could be applied in various manners, the primary focus of Hayashi is application by spin coating. Because spray coating of compositions containing materials like ATO or ITO would be recognized as being more likely to have problems with irregularities than spin coating, those skilled in the art would not consider that compositions used by Hayashi for spin coating of compositions containing fine metal powder could be used for spray coating compositions of ATO or ITO microparticles. Therefore, there is no basis in the present record for one of ordinary skill to consider modifying Hayashi's composition teachings to use the composition required by claim 1, which achieves advantageous results in the spray coating of compositions that include ATO or ITO microparticles.

Claim 2 is further removed from Hayashi. Claim 2 recites preferred weight % ranges for ethylene glycol, propylene glycol ether and water. Tables 1-3 (pages 8-9 of the present specification) demonstrate that these ranges provide particularly desirable results. Nothing in Hayashi suggests that this could be achieved.

Thus Hayashi fails to render obvious the features of the present claims. Sato, Kojima or Koike alone or in combination fail to remedy the deficiency of Hayashi. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the attorney-of-record, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371.5237.

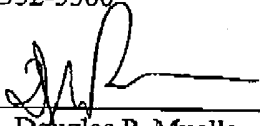
Respectfully submitted,



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